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**(S//NC/CIA-IUO/OC/NF) SUBJ: COLONEL SIGIFREDO OCHOA PEREZ' VIEWS OF RUMORS
OF A COUP D'ETAT RELATED TO ISSUE OF COLONEL REYNALDO LOPEZ NUILA'S
POSSIBLE PROMOTION**

Central Intelligence Agency

15 January 1985

Doc Number

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~~(S//NC/CIA-IUO/OC/NF) WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASS S E C
R E T--WNINTEL--NOFORN--NOCONTRACT--ORCON DIST: 15 JAN 85 COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR SUBJ: COLONEL SIGIFREDO
OCHOA PEREZ' VIEWS OF RUMORS OF A COUP D'ETAT RELATED TO ISSUE OF COLONEL REYNALDO LOPEZ NUILA'S
POSSIBLE PROMOTION~~

SOURCE

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REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WNINTEL--NOFORN--NOCONTRACT--ORCON

DIST: 15 JAN 85

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: COLONEL SIGIFREDO OCHOA PEREZ' VIEWS OF RUMORS OF A
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TEXT: 1. [REDACTED] -FOURTH BRIGADE COMMANDER COLONEL SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ STATED THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY COUP PLOTTING AGAINST PRESIDENT JOSE NAPOLEON ((DUARTE)). COL. OCHOA ADDED THAT BOTH HE AND MANY OTHER SENIOR SALVADORAN OFFICERS WERE UPSET OVER PRESIDENT DUARTE'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE VICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC SECURITY COLONEL REYNALDO ((LOPEZ)) NUILA TO THE RANK OF GENERAL. OCHOA SAID THAT HE AND THE OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS FEEL STRONGLY THAT LOPEZ NUILA AS "SERVICE" OFFICER WITH LITTLE OR NO COMBAT COMMAND EXPERIENCE DOES NOT DESERVE PROMOTION TO GENERAL OFFICER RANK. OCHOA STATED THAT PRESIDENT DUARTE CONSULTED WITH HIM, OCHOA, REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF COLONEL LOPEZ NUILA'S PROMOTION. OCHOA SAID THAT HE ADVISED AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE LOPEZ NUILA. ACCORDING TO OCHOA, PRESIDENT DUARTE ALSO CONSULTED WITH OTHER BRIGADE COMMANDERS AND RECEIVED SIMILAR ADVICE.

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2. OCHOA ADMITTED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF RUMORS OF COUP PLOTTING BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PROMOTION OF LOPEZ NUILA. OCHOA SAID HE FELT THAT THESE RUMORS WERE UNFOUNDED IN FACT AND COULD HAVE BEEN STARTED BY ANYONE, ESPECIALLY DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON WHEN RUMORS OF COUP PLOTTING ARE HISTORICALLY PREVALENT. OCHOA ATTRIBUTED DUARTE'S CONFLICTS WITH THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO RECENT PRESIDENTIAL VETOES OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AND THE ELECTORAL LAW PACKAGE WHICH HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE INITIATION OF SUCH RUMORS.

3. OCHOA SAID IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR PRESIDENT DUARTE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACTS WITH MILITARY COMMANDERS TO UNDERSTAND THEIR POINTS OF VIEW TO AVOID POSSIBLE SOURCES OF CONFLICT.

4. OCHOA SAID THAT IF DUARTE HAD FORCED COLONEL LOPEZ NUILA'S PROMOTION, HE, OCHOA, WOULD HAVE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED RESIGNING OVER SUCH AN ISSUE. OCHOA ALSO SAID HE BELIEVES THAT OTHER HIGH-LEVEL COMMANDERS WOULD ALSO HAVE CONSIDERED RESIGNING. OCHOA ASSERTED THAT SUCH A FORCED PROMOTION COULD HAVE CAUSED A SERIOUS CRISIS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE MILITARY. OCHOA STATED THAT HE COULD NOT ACCURATELY PREDICT WHAT WOULD TAKE PLACE DURING SUCH A CRISIS OR WHETHER IT WOULD LEAD TO ACTUAL COUP PLOTTING.

5. [REDACTED]

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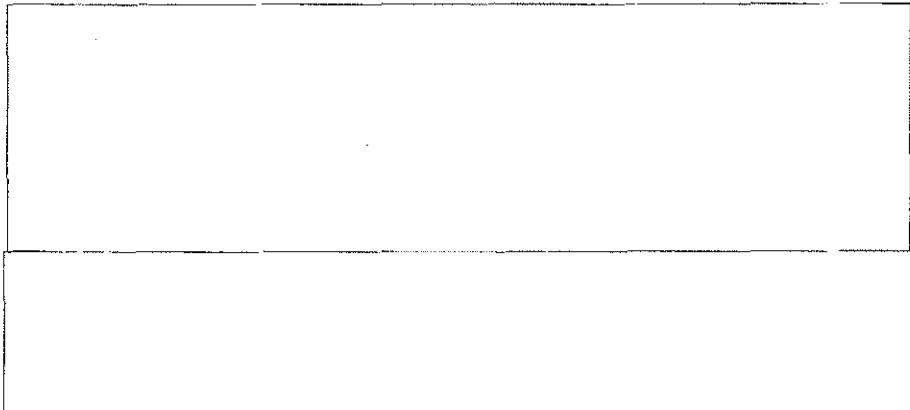
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